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## HEMATOSIS, ITS NATURAL AND ARTIFICIAL INDUCTION.

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FOR the greater perfection of the higher and more complex organic processes, several distinct apparatuses are associated and conjoined, some for construction or composition, others for destruction or decomposition; but, as in the more purely physical processes of nature, one agent usually subserves several separate purposes, all, however, tending to the same great end and ultimate object, so in the organic, it is found that one organ or apparatus performs a variety of actions, comprising an unity of design, and among these none more so than that assigned for the aeration of the organic fluids.

The importance of this process is manifested by the extent and magnitude of the apparatus appropriated to it, occupying, as it does, a prominent position in, and an exalted relation to, the general bulk of the vital economy. The prominent object of this apparatus is to introduce into the economy the atmospheric elements, and to expose the organic fluids therein existing, to their influence, thus supplying the necessary prerequisites for those further changes and transformations by and through which the more perfect organic products are developed, the ultimate metamorphoses effected, excrementitious materials formed and eliminated, and organization, disorganization, and the aggregated vital processes and functions, finally accomplished.

The numerous intricate though consistent and co-ordinate mutations by which the essential modifications in the fluids of the animal economy are effected through this process of aeration, are comprehended under the general designation of "hæmatosis"; and for the accomplishment of the various purposes to be thus realized, it is obvious that there must be a mutual relation and harmony between the effective means and ultimate objects, or the active chemical constituents of the atmosphere, the components of the vital fluids, the changes to be therein induced, and the processes and special purposes to be thereby effected and attained. But as at present we design merely a special and limited reference to this general process in its connections with æratosiis or aeration, and its more particular relations to therapeutics, parts only of some of these will

be cursorily noticed ; and, to render this investigation more systematic and practical, we will first present some considerations respecting the chemical elements of the air.

The principal and doubtless only essential chemical constituents of the atmosphere in relation to animal life, are oxygen and nitrogen ; but as the agency of the former element in the changes incidental to life action, is very fully appreciated, our observations for the present will be limited to that of the latter. In consequence of the negative properties of this agent, nitrogen, as it exists in the atmosphere, it has been, and is still, considered by chemists and physiologists as holding a very subordinate position in the natural chemical processes, and in its relation to the organic economy, serving only as a diluent of its associate oxygen, and a modifier or preventive of its excessive decomposing or disintegrative tendencies and effects upon the organic structure. Reflection, observation and experiment have, however, induced and forced the conclusion that the nitrogen of the atmosphere is positively appropriated in the respiratory processes, and is usefully employed in promoting and perfecting the normal organic changes and functions ; and, for the better appreciation of this subject, some of the reasons explanatory and in support of this view will be presented.

Among the most prominent of these, are, firstly—the spontaneous formation in nature of chemical compounds of which nitrogen is an essential constituent ; as ammonia, nitrates of potassa, soda, &c. It follows that these combinations must necessarily result from the separate or united influence of the chemical and physical forces. For physical or chemical union or combination it does not necessarily require that there should be a mutual affinity between the bodies associated, single affinity being adequate in numerous instances. Hence, though nitrogen is usually passive or negative, other elements, as hydrogen, carbon and oxygen have an affinity for it sufficiently strong to cause combination under favorable circumstances, resulting in the production of other bodies, as ammonia, cyanogen, nitric acid, &c., and ultimately of numerous complex substances.

Again, some bodies, as sponge, platinum, and other artificial and natural substances, possess the property of molecularly concentrating or otherwise modifying other agents, the gases especially, thus rendering them susceptible of other more intimate and complex changes and relations, and sufficiently so to cause chemical affinity to become more active, and chemical combination more certain and speedy ; instances of which are known, as spontaneous combustion, &c. These, it will be recollected, are effected exclusively through the influence and action of the purely physical and chemical forces. Now in the organic processes there are, in addition to these, other and still more powerful influences in operation. Thus, one of the functions of the cells is to induce and modify chemical action and combination, in accordance with certain organic laws and with regard to certain definite results. Hence, when the atmospheric air is introduced into the circulation through the lungs or other surfaces, it is by the cellular construction of the tissues of these organs, and a similar condition of the fluids, physically molecularly modified and thus

most favorably disposed for the subsequent changes to be induced and effected through the agency and activity of the chemical forces. Added to these, there is a greater tendency to the appropriation of the oxygen and nitrogen, and interchange, in consequence of the presence in the circulation of the hydrogen and carbon in the nascent condition. Super-added to which, there is in constant activity the powerful, physiological or biological forces to govern and compel those organic chemical associations, metamorphoses and modifications, essential to, and in the aggregate constituting the changes, productions and processes necessary to organization and life action.

In consequence, doubtless, of the association of these influences, the nascent hydrogen seizes and unites with the nitrogen, forming ammonia ( $NH_3$ ), which is most probably then, from the presence of nascent carbonic acid, previously formed by the union of carbon and oxygen, partially or principally converted into carbonate of ammonia, thus by this appropriation rendering a certain proportion of carbonic acid not only innocuous but actually serviceable and beneficial in the development and support of other and higher organic processes and functions, as it is well known that this salt of ammonia possesses exceedingly valuable properties, both in its constituent and compound relations, of a somewhat *sui generis* character.

But it is highly probable that other compounds of nitrogen are also formed. Thus the evolving and nascent carbon may combine with another portion of nitrogen and form cyanogen ( $NC_2$ ), which by its further association constitutes other compounds, as cyanides, cyanic acid, cyanate of ammonia, &c. Either or all of these, in their simple or complex state, may be modified or decomposed for the induction of, or to furnish their elements for, more ultimate changes and processes, and the production of compounds which are effected, elaborated and eliminated by the various organs of nutrition, secretion and depuration, as the stomach, liver, kidneys, &c. Thus, by these and other chemical associations, metamorphoses and mutations, heat, electricity, &c. are developed, which aid secondarily in promoting the same and subsequent organic modifications and operations for the perfect construction, reparation and preservation of the organism and the performance of its ultimate, aggregate and special functions.

Secondly—It is well known that the inhabitants or isolated individuals of different parts of the earth live for limited or protracted periods of time, almost, if not exclusively, upon either the oleaginous, amylaceous or saccharine alimentary substances. Also numerous animals exist upon vegetable matter, much of which consists of or abounds in those substances comprised in the hydro-carbonaceous or saccharine group of alimentary principles. Now it necessarily follows that there is either a sufficiency of azotized matter associated with these to supply the essential nitrogen for the construction of the true organized or animal tissue, and products, or, that this element is obtained from another source, viz., the atmosphere. But as the limited amount often associated with these substances does not seem to be always and at all times sufficient, or that these azotized materials are always obtainable in adequate quantities for

the wants of the economy, it is reasonable to infer that the equilibrium is preserved by, and the deficiency made up from, the great external gaseous reservoir, and that thus there is a reciprocal or compensatory action between the atmospheric and alimentary nitrogenous supply. And further, though this inferential explanation may reconcile the discrepancies between the results of different experiments on the subject, it does not necessarily preclude the existence of the probable fact that this element, to a greater or limited extent in the æratory processes, is being constantly and directly appropriated from the atmosphere in the supposed manner and for the purposes before alluded to; and also, possibly, by and for other more occult and cognate ones not even yet suspected.

Thirdly.—It has been found that an agent of similar chemical constitution to the atmosphere, though differing in the proportion and character of the combination of its constituent elements, oxygen and nitrogen, possesses analogous physical, chemical and physiological properties; the nitrogen alone or unassociated being comparatively deficient in all; the oxygen, separately, however, being so superiorly active in the chemical, though defective in the biological, as to have induced the belief that it was, in relation thereto, the only essential chemical ingredient of the atmosphere, its excessive activity only being modified by its principal companion nitrogen. This does not, however, satisfactorily account for its deficiency in inducing those physiological phenomena peculiarly characteristic of the atmosphere and its analogues, combination and influence. But in that analogous compound of these two elements known as nitrous oxide or protoxide of nitrogen, though, as before stated, differing from the atmospheric association in the proportion and character of the union of its constituent elements, the former being a chemical combination and the latter esteemed a mechanical commixture, there is a striking similarity and agreement in the most important of these respects, and especially so in the chemical and physiological. Independently of the analogy, however, experimentation has long since demonstrated its powerful and peculiar effects on the animal economy, and more recently some of its additional unique influences have been detailed; but as the subject is one of vast importance, I will again, in a general way, refer to further experience with it as confirmatory of the facts and views before presented, and as aiding in exhibiting the propositions advanced and advocated in this and former publications, of the importance, necessity and usefulness of nitrogen as an organic or physiological constituent of the atmosphere, and of this peculiar analogous combination as a potent and efficacious remedial agent.

The nitrous oxide, as previously stated, in consequence of its peculiarly energetic and unique combination of properties, and its powerful chemical, physiological and therapeutic influences, is an exceedingly valuable general (and because general, also special or local) remedy; and still further experience with it, only strengthens and confirms all former observations, and proves that it does actually promote normal organic metamorphoses and mutation essential to the development of healthy structure and the production of those organic compounds formed, secreted



and eliminated through the operations of the nutrient, secretory and depurative organs, by stimulating the vital energies and supplying the necessary chemical elements, oxygen and nitrogen, for such processes and products, and this not only prevents but corrects numerous abnormal conditions, and especially those organic aberrations or defective vital processes resulting from, or connected with, the deficient supply of these elements from the atmosphere.

That it does thus operate, may be readily determined by its judicious employment in suitable cases, in which it will be found not only to relieve the effects of deranged action, as irritation, pain, spasmodic or irregular movement, &c., but will remove extraneous substances often the primary or secondary cause of such, correct the condition upon which these are dependent, and in fact completely break up, destroy and disperse the whole train of morbid action, and at the same time actively promote and regulate the healthy processes of nutrition, secretion, &c. These effects are especially striking in certain derangements of the pulmonary and renal functions, of which pain, cough, difficult or spasmodic breathing, serous effusions, strangury, frequent desire for micturition, &c., are the consequences. In the derangements of the former, as chronic inflammation, asthmatic respiration, &c., it often immediately relieves the irritation, cough, sense of oppression, &c., speedily and effectually resolving and correcting the special antecedent or concomitant, and secondary or consequent general abnormal condition; there being, as stated in a former paper, two principal and distinct pathological elements of disturbance and derangement in an organ or tissue, first, that dependent on the functional privation, or the absence of the elements or substances necessary for nutrition and the due performance of its function—and, secondly, that connected with the organic modification. The first is precursory, and is doubtless always the cause of the second, except, of course, where the derangement results from mechanical injury, &c. Now, presupposing the structural integrity and the existence of the power of appropriation, it is obvious, *ceteris paribus*, that by the due supply of these elements or substances, the functional disturbance will not ensue or cannot exist, which is demonstrated by the absence of this derangement when sufficient material for the functional purposes are obtained, and when existing in its instantaneous or speedy cessation if the necessary elements are supplied. In the organic affection, however, these two exist conjointly; hence the primary object is to mitigate and modify the one, and, secondly, correct or remove the other as soon as possible; the predominant indication of all, of course, being to obviate the primary and further tendency to both. But as the organic modification is often originally dependent on the same cause, though usually a result or secondary accompaniment of the functional privation and aberration, it necessarily follows that by an increased supply of these essential elements or materials the deficiency will be made up, and, in consequence of the imperative demands of the special tissue or general economy, they will, if the structure and vital energies are not too much impaired, be actively appropriated until the instinctive desires are satisfied, the equilibrium restored and the derangement corrected. These purely functional phe-

nomena are strikingly manifested in the accelerated activity of the nutrient and respiratory processes during recovery from the effects of the temporary privation of food and air, as in partial starvation and asphyxiation. Also even in those cases of advanced organic modification, depending upon, or connected with, analogous functional deficiencies, by a due supply or an increased quantity of the necessary agents, conjoined with the active stimulus usually associated and afforded by these or other agents, the normal tendencies and processes may be and often are sufficiently promoted and accelerated to cause a correction of the morbid, and the final restoration of the healthy state.

[To be continued.]

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#### DR. NUTTING ON THE PHILOSOPHY OF MEDICAL DELUSIONS.

[Concluded from page 36.]

IN quackery, as in philosophy, we have Materialism, and Immaterialism. The former of these belongs to a class of men, who have a smattering of knowledge, yet little discipline of mind. They are above the lowest class in society—for these usually employ the regular physician, asking few questions about theories and systems. They do not, however, rise to the formation of abstract ideas. Sensations are their chief ground of credence, nor can they comprehend the relation of cause and effect, unless they can see the physical cause standing in close relation to the effect. For this class of minds, we have two systems, Thomsonism and Hydropathy. In each of these a visible and efficient agent is made to stand as the antecedent of the effect required. Little account is made of the "*vis medicatrix nature*" in either system.

Of these, Thomsonism claims the prior notice. I shall not enter on its history further than to remark, that it has always found its advocates chiefly among the less educated. A thorough Thomsonian must have qualities something like these: superficial knowledge and real ignorance, self-conceit and credulity, a faculty for jumping at conclusions, and strong prejudices. Thomson himself possessed these qualities in a marked degree. His ignorance may be inferred, from his placing opium as a mineral, and salt as a vegetable, in his list of drugs; as well as from his attempt to reduce the science of therapeutics to a system of rules. In common with other quacks, symptoms were to him the whole of disease. Hence a knowledge of anatomy, physiology and pathology was of no use. Any one could learn the symptoms in a few weeks, so as to apply his rules, and thus the pride of ignorance was flattered. Had Thomson been a more learned man, he could not have formed so popular a system. For, having in his own mind the same elements composing the mind of this lower class, and influenced by the same prejudices, he could enter into their feelings and flatter their pride, while he secured his own praise.

His prejudices are seen in his constant denunciations of opium and mineral medicines. His want of mental discipline is seen in his dissatisfaction with any effects not tangible. Hence, lobelia became his favorite

emetic, and cayenne and hot-drops his favorite stimulants, while the steam-box was ever ready to produce sensible external effects. And each of these had its place by rule. But the glory of Thomson is departed. The steam-box is obsolete; and though cayenne and lobelia hold their place, it is with divided sway. His name, even, is in disuse, and his motley offspring are now Eclectics or Botanics, and almost resent the appellation of Thomsonian as an insult.

Thomson's system, having been found utterly worthless, is laid aside. Minerals find their way into their practice, and in short they try, like all other quacks, so far as their ignorance will allow, to secure the advantages which flow from the regular system, while they retain the influence their quackery confers. It need not be considered a libel, if it be said, that as a class they are uneducated; for it was a principle of their system that education was not needed, and many an ambitious youth has vaulted from the stable to his gig, and from beside his bench to the bedside of the patient, with hardly a passing compliment to books or study. There is, with them, as with others, no professional honesty; for while they flatter the popular prejudices against mineral medicines, the fact of their using them is notorious.

Hydropathy belongs to the same class as Thomsonism. Like that, it lays no claim to mysterious or supernatural forces. Its causes and effects are physical. Like those of the other system, its advocates condemn the regular profession, and, like each of the others, claim that the true system of medicine was concealed till Priessnitz brought it to light; and that they alone pursue the true method. Their system, like Thomsonism, consists of a central dogma and specific rules. Their fundamental dogma is, that water can cure all cases of disease that are curable; and that it can do no harm. But this rests on no better evidence than that of Thomson, that "heat is life." Nor are its claims any better supported than were those of the followers of Perkins or Hahnemann. The origin of the system is liable to the same objection, which I have shown to lie against all such systems, that it is formed from no induction of facts.

Priessnitz claims, and I believe receives from his ardent supporters, a degree of reverence which can hardly be accorded to any common man. And, indeed, if he has discovered the only true medical system, with only the education of a common peasant, and with no induction of facts, he is worthy of all the reverence which can be given to humanity. But what evidence have we that he has discovered such a system? Not that it prolonged his life, for he died, like Paracelsus, and Wessel-hæft has lately gone. Nor does their success in curing those diseases which tend to death, furnish it. In the disorders incident to a sedentary life, or want of attention to the skin, or luxurious habits, a term at a "water-cure" is of great use. Fifteen or twenty dollars a week for board and treatment, is pretty sure to secure attention to directions; and free exercise in the air, with thorough cleansing of the skin, a moderate diet, with freedom from ordinary care, are sufficient for a cure. But, except the expense and the name of it, one could better have secured it with a gun or fishing-rod among our mountains.

From a personal acquaintance with a very popular cure, I am free to

say that few physicians have healthier or more comfortable-looking patients than are to be seen there. In acute diseases, so far as that *cure* is concerned, the treatment has not been successful. Nor could it be rationally expected otherwise, when the physicians could in a post-mortem report, published over their own names, claim that the patient's heart was diseased, because "there was some fat about the base of it, and the walls of the left ventricle were fully twice as thick as those of the right"; confounding a perfectly natural condition with fatty degeneration in the first case, and with hypertrophy in the last. Nor ought it to excite surprise that such an ignorance of anatomy and physiology should have appeared in the report; for Priessnitz claimed no knowledge of these, and Wesselhœft could not surpass his master.

The following statistics, taken from the *Glen-Haven Cure*, by Dr. Jas. C. Jackson, is not altogether without significance. The character of the patients, as given in that, exactly coincides with the results of my own observation.

Five hundred and eighty-nine patients reported; of these, *five hundred and forty-four* have been accustomed to *dose themselves with patent medicines*. 216 have been treated homœopathically; 226 by the Botanics and Eclectics; previously by water-cure, 97; by galvanism, 19; and by spiritual communicationists, 2. Of these, one had taken *one hundred and four* bottles of Townsend's Sarsaparilla, and 33 bottles of Vaughn's Lithontriptic Mixture. The others had taken, some of them, 25 boxes of Brandreth's Pills, Moffat's, &c., in proportion. How many were cured was not specified, though it is to be inferred all were. Hypertrophy of the heart, curvature of the spine, and tumors of the uterus, are reported as cured! Although Dr. J. informs us in the report that he is *somebody*, most persons, understanding the nature of these complaints, would quite as willingly credit him with an error in diagnosis, as with having cured such complaints. If the proportion of those accustomed to quack treatment at this Cure, be not greater than at others, it shows pretty conclusively to what class in the community hydropathy belongs.

Nor is it any argument in favor of this system, that converts are made to it from the regular profession. Few possessed of good judgment, a thorough knowledge of the principles of medicine, and a fair amount of practice in the regular way, can be found among these. The fact that clergymen go over to the Romish church, proves just as conclusively the superior excellence of that church, as these changes do that of hydropathy! Nor is the oft-repeated argument from the cures of any value, for Perkins's Tractors cured 5000 cases of every form of disease, in a few months. Nor was there ever a quack by whom cures were not claimed to be performed, and, as his advocates affirmed, *proved* to have been done. The regular profession can show more real cures, than all others can of both real and imaginary.

The free use of water in health, does not belong to hydropathy; and the use of it as a remedial agent had been long in use when Priessnitz was born. All that can be claimed as the discovery of the sage of Graefenburg—for his principles and practice are hardly more regarded by his followers now, than are those of Galen by the regular profession—is

the dogma, which even the limited experience of hydropathists has failed to establish, that water is sufficient for the cure of all diseases, and the assertion that all other remedies are worthless or pernicious, which the experience of ages expressly contradicts.

Of the immaterial class, Homœopathy is the system chiefly in vogue, and will therefore claim the chief attention. This, in common with Kinisipathy and Tractorpathy, claims to exert its power through a certain mysterious force; but whether this is of a spiritual nature, as Hahnemann stated, or of an electric character, as some of his followers contend, is not decided, for "who shall decide when [such] doctors disagree?" It is not my design to give a history of Homœopathy, or an exposition of all its absurdities. Any one curious to take an allopathic dose of these, is referred to an excellent Essay on Homœopathy by Dr. Worthington Hooker, of Yale College. It is a fair exposition of the system, and if a candid reading of that does not cure one of homœopathic tendencies, nothing but the globules will.

To make a thorough homœopath, a man needs considerable information, and great power of theorizing. His habits of observation, and his practical judgment, must be inferior; he must be credulous, easily prejudiced, and self-conceited, having implicit faith in his experience and reasoning, and a total ignorance of the power and influence of the imagination. Such were the qualities of Hahnemann's mind, and his followers have nearly resembled him.

He was a man of learning, so far as extensive reading could make him one; and he was the prince of theorizers, as his works abundantly show. He observed no facts, and his want of correct practical judgment is seen through all his life. His credulity is evident, from the ridiculous absurdities adopted in his system, as well as from his implicit belief in mesmerism and clairvoyance. His self-conceit is clearly manifest, from his arrogant assumption of having discovered the only true system of medicine. His implicit faith in his own experience and reasoning, as well as his entire ignorance of the power and influence of his own imagination, and that of others, is clearly evident from a perusal of his writings, to any one not possessed of the same mental character. His innate disposition to cheat, will be further evident from his selling common borax at a Louis d'or an ounce, under pretence of its being a salt possessed of valuable properties, and lately discovered by himself.

It is enough for a rational man, to know the character of a founder of a system, and its mode of origin, to enable him to judge whether it be a true and valuable one. If a system of mathematics, claiming to differ from the one in use, and to be superior to it, be presented to me, and I know that the author of it was a man destitute of all mathematical habits, that he formed his system without studying the relations of quantities, and I find, on his first page, two and two make five, or that the sum of the parts exceeds the whole, I should only demonstrate my folly by a serious examination of the system. Nor if he should claim that he had solved the most abstruse mathematical problems by his system, would it impose any obligation to examine it. Yet he might demand it, with the same propriety with which homœopaths demand of us a thorough

examination of their system, and even that we should test it by experience. But as successful experience even would not prove the truth of a system of mathematics based on errors, so will not this test avail for homœopathy, even if apparently successful.

Some clergymen, and many others also, seem fond of demanding for homœopathy such a test; and in return, the physician may with equal propriety demand of them a thorough examination of Mormonism, and even that they shall put it to the test of experience, with its spiritual *wisdom*, and all its other absurdities. But the clergyman replies, I am acquainted with the rules of theological reasoning, the laws of evidence, and the standard of truth; and if the character of the founder of the system, and its plan and basis, do not come up to that, I am competent to condemn it without that trouble. Sir, the physician retorts, I am acquainted with the laws of medical reasoning and evidence, and if a system contradict these on its face, I am competent to condemn it at once. And if I am bound to take your decision, you are bound to take mine.

But physicians have put this system fully and impartially to the test, though of course not in full homœopathic faith. But to require of a man faith in that of which he sees no evidence, is asking too much of rational men. Yet this is what the homœopaths demand, and it is in accordance with the course pursued by those who become homœopaths. First, they have implicit faith in it, and then have no difficulty in seeing evidence where nothing is to be seen. With such rational lack of faith in it, Bonnet and Andral, and other eminent physicians of France, have fully tested the homœopathic system and globules, paying the strictest attention to the rules of Hahnemann and others for their administration, and in no case was there the slightest effect produced. Homœopaths themselves have fully tested it, and proved clearly, to all but themselves, that the system was false and the medicines powerless.

That great benefit results in many cases from the adoption of this system, no one doubts. A man under the influence of the delusion before mentioned, that, let him transgress the laws of health as he will, medicine has yet the power to counteract the bad results of his errors, will find homœopathy an advantage. For he will put his trust in medicine; but if his faith in drugs is coupled with a willingness to fulfil the conditions under which success is promised in homœopathy, while he will not obey the laws of health as dictated by science; by taking globules, he will be humbugged into an obedience to the laws of health, and will take the shadow of the name of a drug, powerless alike for good or ill. Here the man, making a fool of himself, is cured by being made a fool of—a good illustration of "*similia similibus curantur*"!

But in what does Hahnemann's theory consist? Like other founders of systems, he has a central dogma, "*similia similibus curantur*," and he affirms that this is the sole law of cure. His reasoning is, that those causes which in a state of health will produce given symptoms of sickness, will cure those symptoms if given when they have arisen spontaneously. This is the foundation of his system. But he adduces no facts in attestation of it, except the limited number which he pretends to have observed, and these no subsequent experimenter has been able

to verify, unless he had beforehand adopted his system. He also affirms that no cure was ever effected, but under this law. Here he has the experience of the world against him, for no one would expose a severe burn to the fire to cure it, and every one knows that cures have been performed by counter-irritation. The mode of cure in the first case would be what is called antipathic, or by remedies of a soothing nature; and in the other, by allopathy, or by curing one disease by exciting another of more manageable character, and in a less dangerous place. The basis of his theory has, thus, not only no foundation in facts, but the facts are all against it.

He makes a great display of accuracy in the details of the "provings" of the various drugs; but it is in details which have no importance or bearing on the subject, and the recording of them proves only that the person so doing, was destitute of that discrimination of mind, and accurate judgment, without which no one is competent to record facts for others. The most trivial circumstances are recorded with all the care of the most important.

But how shall the effects of drugs on the healthy system be ascertained? These must of course be determined, before the drugs can be used in sickness. A man, as nearly healthy as possible, is selected as the subject of the "provings." He abstains from spices, fat meat, coffee, tea, beer, tooth preparations, perfumery of all kinds, old cheese, pork, geese, duck and young veal, a passion for gaming, reading of obscene books, &c., which are deemed by him medicinal, while tobacco and alcohol are not excluded. He now takes the decillionth of a grain of sulphur, for instance, and begins to note the effects. Every symptom, mental, moral and physical, for the next fifty days, are included under the effects of the sulphur. I shall give about a fifteenth part of the effects, as given in Jahr's Manual. Any one wishing for the "totality" of the symptoms, can find it by consulting that.

"Itching in the skin, worst at night, or in the morning in bed, frequently with a sense of soreness, or heat, or bleeding of the scratched part. Eruptions after vaccination; chronic eruptions with a burning itching; miliary eruptions, with a burning itching; scabies, with rash; yellow or liver-colored spots on the skin, moles, herpes, erysipelatous inflammation, with throbbing and stinging, tingling in the limbs, disposition to numbness; easily injured in lifting; twitching of the muscles, fainting fits and spasms, also hysterics; single jerks in the limbs when sitting or lying, epileptic paroxysms, with sensations as if a mouse were running over them; tremors of the limbs. The most complaints *originate only when at rest, and disappear by motion of the part affected or by walking.* Sadness and dejection; melancholy, with doubts about his soul's welfare; great inclination to weep, frequently alternating with laughing; inconsolableness, and reproaches of conscience about every action; attacks of anxiety in the evening; nocturnal fear of spectres, fearfulness and liability to be frightened; ill humor, restlessness and hastiness, caprice, moroseness, irritability and fretfulness, disinclination to labor."

I have thus given perhaps the fifteenth part of the "totality" of



symptoms produced by a decillionth of a grain of sulphur. The rest includes caries of the bones, five fevers, and in short about all the diseases flesh is heir to. Doubts of one's soul's welfare, a disinclination to labor, five fevers, together with moroseness and ill humor enough to destroy all domestic comfort! Adieu to brimstone matches! The provings of *nux vomica* have given twelve hundred symptoms, and all the others in proportion. What a beautiful and concise system! No wonder a homœopathic doctor of my acquaintance was obliged to take his book to the bedside of his patient, and read off the symptoms, and ask him if didn't feel so and so. But he had just got into it, and had not learned it all.

I have only to add respecting Hahnemann's theory, that he states full *seven-eighths* of all chronic diseases is the result of psora, vulgarly the itch. This, he affirms, it cost him twelve years' research to establish, and I presume twelve years labor more will be required to convince rational people of its truth.

Another grand feature of this system, is, the infinitesimal doses in which medicines are administered, and their mode of preparation. This is no where formally laid down by Hahnemann, nor the time of adopting it given, for his first provings were with allopathic doses. Nor does he specify in his provings, when he uses the infinitesimal or the allopathic dose. This, alone, would vitiate his results; for bark, or opium, in a full dose, would give results vastly different from the same in a dose of the decillionth of a grain. He has, however, introduced this part of his system into the notes, and what was thus incidentally dropped, as it were, now constitutes the distinctive part of the system. His mode of preparing vegetable medicines I shall quote after Hooker. He offers no facts in support of this wonderful discovery, but seems, as elsewhere, to have dreamed it, adopted it, and then reasoned of its accuracy from the imaginary effect produced. We have in this another proof of the total want of philosophical acumen and correct judgment of Hahnemann.

The description of his mode of preparing vegetable medicines, which is found in his *Materia Medica Pura*, vol. 1st, p. 96, is as follows:

"To attain the hundredth degree of potency, mix two drops of alcohol with two drops of the juice of the plant, and then mix this with 99 or 100 drops of alcohol by means of two strokes of the arm from above descending. By mixing in the same way one drop from this, with 100 drops of alcohol, you attain the ten thousandth degree of potency; and by mixing one drop of this dilution with another 100 drops of alcohol, you attain the millionth degree. This process of dynamization, or spiritualization, is continued through a series of thirty vials, up to the thirtieth solution. This thirtieth degree should always be used for homœopathic purposes."

Now let us look at the arithmetic of this "spiritualization or dynamization," and by these terms Hahnemann and his followers mean the communication of an immaterial or mysterious power to substances before inert or powerless in such quantities, by trituration and shaking, "so that silex, which from its insolubility is entirely inert, can by this process be so potentized, that a single grain of it would suffice to cure of cer-

tain forms of disease, not merely a world of human beings, but millions upon millions of worlds as thickly peopled as our own." Remember this "potency" is communicated by shaking, and Hahnemann is very explicit on this point. He cautions, again and again, against too many shakes, and adds that "he had latterly been obliged to reduce the number of shakes to two for each dilution, and that these must be made with a powerful stroke of the arm descending"! He had formerly used ten, but he found the medicine became so powerful in a dose of a decillionth of a grain, that there was danger in its use. Nor is this ridiculous idea of "potentizing" medicine by shaking it obsolete; for "Jænicchen's high potencies" are recommended by the New York Homœopathic Journal, on the ground of "having received one and a half millions of the most powerful shakings, counting only those which produced a metallic ringing sound of the glass bottle"; and these all good orthodox shakes, with a "powerful stroke of the arm descending"! Who would not pity poor Jænicchen's arm? Yet these medicines are perfectly mild and harmless, while the same medicines having received only 600 shakes in Hahnemann's hands, "put in jeopardy the life of an infant to whom it was administered." So says Hahnemann, and you may judge of the consistency of the statements, as well as of their probability.

But to return to the arithmetic of these infinitesimal doses. The final "potence," or thirtieth dilution, contains one decillionth of a drop of the original juice of the plant. But how much is a decillionth? We can form little idea of it, for we are beyond our depth in such vast numbers. To express it in characters, we should have 1 for a numerator, and 1 with a string of sixty cyphers for a denominator—thus—

But this gives us no idea of it. Let us take Dr. Post's computation as given by Dr. Hooker, of the amount of alcohol that would be used were none thrown away.

The first would require a hundred drops; the 2d, about a pint; 3d, 100 pints; 4th, 10,000 pints; 9th, ten billion of gallons, which equals, according to Dr. Parroni, the water of the Lake Aquaro, two miles in circumference. For the fifteenth dilution, a quantity greater in bulk than this earth would be required. For the 18th, greater than the sun; and for the 30th, greater than a quadrillion of suns."

Let us vary this a little. Take one drop from the pint produced by the 2d dilution, and mix it in the waters of Lake Champlain. Take one drop from this, and put it in Lake Superior. Let the winds mix and shake it well, and then dip up one drop and carry it over to the head waters of the Mississippi, and let its currents and circling eddies diffuse it through all that noble stream. Let it flow down and mingle with the waters of the Gulf; then, taken by the Gulf-stream, and carried up to the coast of Labrador, and thence across to the coast of Norway, let it get a good orthodox shaking in the Maelstrom, and thence be diffused through all the waters of the globe. Will a single drop of this dilution do for a dose? Hahnemann says it is too strong!

Imagine, then, a hollow globe 8000 miles in diameter; fill it with alcohol, and add one drop of laudanum, which will produce no perceptible

effect on an adult. Then make it revolve on its axis, as the earth does, till it is properly mixed and shaken, and a drop from this is too great a dose. Imagine then a globe so vast, that our earth, with the moon at its present distance from it, could be taken in and yet have room to perform its revolutions. Fill up this vast globe with alcohol, and add one drop of laudanum, and let it be diffused through all this mass, and a drop from it is still an overdose. Imagine then a globe whose diameter shall extend beyond the fixed stars, so that were one of these to be now placed on its further side it would be full three years before its light would strike our eyes. Fill this with alcohol, and add the laudanum as before; then take one drop, and "with it moisten 1000 globules, and give one of these for a dose; or if the patient be very susceptible, put one of these in a vial and let him snuff of it." Such, says Hahnemann, are the doses he employs. I have not exaggerated, and any one may test the truth of my illustration by actual calculation.

But homœopaths do produce effects with their medicine! Certainly. More than one homœopathic case of medicine has been found to contain, in addition to the "high potencies," all the undiluted powerful preparations of the allopaths—strychnine and veratrine and morphine, and such like drugs, of which the allopathic dose is scarcely larger than a globule. They are there, and they are in the offices of the homœopaths, and when hard pressed they will acknowledge that in some cases they are obliged to use them, as is well known they have done camphor in cholera.

But do they tell their patients that they are dosing them with these most powerful drugs; or do they persuade them they are taking the mild homœopathic globules? Are they, then, honest, or are they not both quacks and knaves? This may appear harsh language, but it becomes the duty of the regular physicians, as conservators of the public health, not only to cure disease, but to expose the practices of those who would tamper with the public health. Nor should they hesitate to claim for themselves the competency to judge of every system and mode of practice.

But if the globulists confess the truth when they admit that in severe cases they are obliged to resort to allopathic remedies, and modes of practice, what becomes of the boasted superiority of their system? Good enough when nothing need be done, but good for nothing when danger is near!

Enough has been said on this system of quackery. Take the books of its founder, and of its advocates, and judge for yourselves. Weigh calmly the system, its origin, and its progress, without reference to the pretended cures it has wrought, and there will be little danger of error.

But, finally, what are to be the effects of all these different "pathies" on the regular system? I answer, confidently, that they will benefit it. The system of medical science has come down through a long series of ages. Unnumbered systems have risen against it, but they have perished, and it has come forth from the contest with increased strength. So will these popular systems of to-day serve to purge out the quackery from it, to lop off its ill-defined and misty borders, and when they shall have passed away, it will stand firmer, and with more noble proportions

than before. Already has hydropathy done much to break up a popular hydrophobia, which the influence of the regular profession could but slowly accomplish. Taking hold on the native quackery of the mind, it enforces the value of water as a hygienic application, which science unaided has labored almost in vain to accomplish. True, it goes to extremes; but the healthy reaction will take place, and truth will be embraced in its purity. So, too, homœopathy has taught, by the same means, what the regular physician could not enforce, that a man's recovery depended not alone on drugs. These systems, appealing to the innate quackery of men, have enforced truths which science had long taught, but which was rejected till gilded by quackery's cunning hand. But the truth will remain when the gilding shall have perished; and thus even these, its bitterest enemies, shall conduce to the up-building of the temple of truth.

### THUMB DESTROYED BY VIOLENCE.

[Communicated for the Boston Medical and Surgical Journal.]

JUNE 25th.—J. B., laborer, aged 28, at 4 o'clock, P. M., had the last phalanx of his thumb torn off by being caught in the noose of a halter and drawn through a hole in a plank, and with it was drawn out the tendon of the flexor longus pollicis, which was covered for four inches of its length with fibres of the muscle with which it had parted. The integument which had covered the articulation of the two phalanges of the thumb was much bruised. Covered the wound with lint, and ordered an application of whiskey and water to fore-arm; and sulph. mag.  $\frac{3}{4}$  i.

9 P. M.—Fore-arm swelling and painful. Whiskey discontinued. Application of iced water to arm and hand. Bandaged from extremity of fingers to elbow; and sulph. mag.  $\frac{3}{4}$  i.

JUNE 26th. 7 A. M.—Swelling and pain abating. Divided integument on two sides of thumb; and dissecting it back, sawed off half an inch of first phalanx, and bringing integument together, secured it with an adhesive strip. Bandage and water continued without ice.

11 P. M.—Arm swelling, with some pain. Ice renewed.

27th. 8 A. M.—Pain and swelling gone.

From this time there was no trouble in the arm. A small portion of the integument was so bruised that it sloughed away; but it healed kindly, and was well on the 21st July.

*Terre Haute, Ind., July, 1853.*

JOHN G. STEVENSON, M.D.

### THE BOSTON MEDICAL AND SURGICAL JOURNAL.

BOSTON, AUGUST 17, 1853.

*Hydro-Electric Voltaic Chains.*—Remedies are likely to be more numerous than maladies. But this fact calls for no lament: the multiplication of means for meeting the contingencies of disease, must be gratifying to

every humane feeling. A new principle is no sooner discovered, or the beneficial application of an old one clearly established, than the economical and efficient administration of it becomes a desideratum. Some of the agents which nature employs in her grand operations, cannot be controlled by our simply willing to do so. Many and eminent mechanical geniuses have been employed in perfecting apparatus for guiding and making subservient to human wants and infirmities that mightiest and swiftest of all messengers, electricity. They seem to have accomplished their object; and now, like a chained and muzzled bull-dog, lightning may be imprisoned or let loose, at the pleasure of a child. Dr. Codman, of Tremont Row, Boston, has scores of neatly-finished little boxes, which contain Portable Hydro-Electric Chains—all the way in price from nine dollars to two and a half. These chain batteries are curiosities, in construction, independent of their utility. A pamphlet accompanies each set, abounding in wood cuts, illustrative of the position of patients who are to receive the application. Some are having the shock directed through the thorax, the ankle, or wherever circumstances indicate that it would be most serviceable.—A principal feature, however, in the book of directions, is a fatiguing catalogue of names appended to certificates, testifying to the exceeding value of electricity as a therapeutic power. First, there are the heads of medical departments in some of the prominent schools and hospitals in New York. Then follows, in regular progression, an army of restored invalids, made over new, and as bright as buttons. They were of course cured of terrible difficulties. We are reminded by them of the saying of the rope-maker—"there is nothing like tar!" The women figure prominently, and they suffered more than the other sex. Catherine Ward's tooth, Miss Sophia Lyon's rheumatism, Miss Greiner's hysteric colic, and Sophia Bühl's nervous pains which "poisoned my life," were perfectly terrible! England also walks up with her multitudinous evidence in favor of the chains. The note of Capt. Twopenny, late of the 52d light infantry, is worth a pound sterling to the proprietor. France has contributed certificates nobly. There was a national pride at stake, not to be outdone by John Bull or Brother Jonathan. As for Austria, Prussia and Saxony, being secondary governments, not so much ought to be expected. From Germany they sent something, as they did to the World's Fair, to show their sympathy. An immense amount of nonsense is palmed off in this instance, as in all others where a patent right is at the bottom. We have confidence in the value of electricity in very many abnormal conditions of the body, administered by competent advisers; but that it is a sovereign medicine, a panacea for every physical wo, as some of its advocates claim for it, is as absurd as it is untrue. We have never seen these chains in operation, but the workmanship is good and the principle correct. Dr. Rogers, of Boston, has effected excellent results by the use of electricity, but he studies carefully all the circumstances of the case before he decides whether it is best to make an effort. This is the proper manner of proceeding, and confidence is inspired when the chains are confided to responsible, scientific hands. Mr. Pulvermacher's apparatus is unquestionably the best extant, but the book that goes with it does not aid its reputation.

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*Tennessee State Medical Society.*—On its twenty-fourth anniversary, at Nashville, May 4th, John M. Watson, M.D., gave an address on "Retrospective, Perspective and Prospective views of Medicine." A very condensed historical account of the rise of medicine occupies the first part of

the discourse, which shows the author to be well read in the antiquities of the art. He treats, next, of the present condition of medicine, and in the third place contemplates the future destiny of the science. It is a sound, strong exhibition of the energy, tact and talent of Dr. Watson. Nothing like fawning or apologizing for this or that departure from the standard of sound medical philosophy, is discoverable in any page of this excellent performance. Dr. Watson may be prophetic in reference to a coming day. "It is highly probable that in a short time we shall have able scientific men engaged in the treatment of such affections. (consumption, cancer, scrofula, &c.). Some modern Jenner may yet give the world an antidote against those diseases. The obstetrician and surgeon are not more distinct now, than will be the pneumatologist, gastrologist, &c., in a coming day." His opinion coincides with that of a large number of leading minds, that specialties are eventually to blot out the old system of being a practitioner of all work. We detect in the address two or three ungrammatical words, which no doubt was the fault of the proof reader.

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*Iowa University Medical School.*—Wherever civilization extends, medicine reaches also. Going to Iowa, and going out of the world, a few years since, were considered much the same thing, but now that Indian territory is a magnificent agricultural region, rich in resources beyond the present imaginings of the people in this region. Their medical school, under the legalized name of the College of Physicians and Surgeons, at Keokuk, is admirably endowed, and equals, in prospects and present patronage, some of its namesakes here at the East. A Medical Journal, monthly, at two dollars per year, is to appear at Keokuk, under the editorial charge of D. L. McGugin, M.D.

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*Virginia Medical Society.*—A copy of the Transactions gives us an opportunity of bearing favorable testimony to the zeal, activity and prosperity of the members. In April last, the thirteenth annual meeting was addressed by James Beale, M.D., in a lively and finished discourse. He understands his mission, and gives dignity to the profession to which he belongs. Thomas P. Atkinson, M.D., of Danville, was elected President for the ensuing year. It was resolved that a medal, or some other suitable testimonial, not to exceed fifty dollars in value, shall be awarded annually by the society, for the best essay upon some medical subject.

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*Female Medical College of Pennsylvania.*—The prospectus for the next course of lectures in the above-named school, is circulating. Verily, we do things in our own way in this country. The ladies are putting their hands to the plough in earnest. There is not a branch of industry or science that they cannot conduct, if they choose. One of the strong women, it is said, actually sails master of a vessel. Miss Dr. Hunt, a keen-sighted, energetic and sarcastic writer, when she indulges her wit, in the course of a public lecture a while since, in Boston, basted the rough sex as she would a roasting turkey, to the no small amusement of the assembly. She was disposed to admit that man had accomplished a great deal—but not every thing; and in enumerating what woman could do, and man could not, she mentioned, as a matter more important to the world's interest than all the rest, that men could not bear children!

*La Salle Co. (Ill.) Medical Society.*—The following, from the Secretary of this newly formed Medical Association, is cheerfully inserted. It breathes the right spirit, and which must, if participated in by only a few others of the profession, secure the perpetuity of the society and promote the public good. We should be pleased to receive from the writer some account of the state of the profession in that far-off region.

MR. EDITOR,—On the 29th ult., pursuant to a notice properly given, a meeting of physicians was held at Ottawa, for the purpose of organizing a County Medical Society. At that meeting, a set of By-Laws and a Code of Medical Ethics were adopted, and the following persons were elected to office, viz.:—Dr. C. Hard, President; Dr. E. S. Morey, Vice President; Dr. J. O. Harris, Secretary and Librarian; Dr. P. Kirwin, Treasurer; and Drs. T. Hay, P. Kirwin, E. S. Morey, C. Hard and J. O. Harris, Censors. The physicians here, have been more willing to admit the necessity of such a society, than to co-operate with each other, heretofore, in its organization; and even now, at the meeting referred to, not more than half of the Regular Physicians of the County were present. However, I have no fears for the success of the society, for a few of us are determined that it *shall* be sustained, and when that is the case, you know, “there is no such word as *fail*.” J. O. HARRIS, M.D.

*American Medical Society in Paris.*—TO THE EDITOR. Sir,—Will you favor the American Medical Society by inserting in your Journal the following announcement?

Most respectfully, yours, E. E. WILSON,

Paris, July 16, 1853. Corresponding Secretary.

At a meeting of “The American Medical Society in Paris,” held June 28th, the following persons were elected officers for the ensuing four months; viz.—Adino B. Hall, M.D., of Mass., President; J. Francis Mason, M.D., of Va., 1st Vice President; Wm. E. Johnston, M.D., of New York, 2d Vice President; E. E. Wilson, M.D., of Pa., Corresp. Secretary; Elkanah Williams, M.D., of Ohio, Recording Secretary; John A. Murphy, M.D., of Ohio, Treasurer; Samuel Goudiro, M.D., of S. C., Librarian.

*Medical Queries respecting the Crucifixion.*—MR. EDITOR,—In the number of June 15, I saw some remarks of yours in relation to Dr. Phelps's opinion respecting the flow of water from the Saviour's side. He says that water in the pericardium, sufficient to flow, indicates disease. Is he not aware that serum is often poured out into the pericardium, as well as into other cavities, during the struggle immediately preceding death from acute disease or long continued violence? The Saviour hung three hours in the greatest agony on the Cross; and who wonders that the exhalants of the surface, as well as those of the internal cavities, should pour out their contents freely as “he bowed his head and gave up the ghost.” Even the contemplation of his sufferings in the garden of Gethsemane, caused him to “sweat as it were great drops of blood falling down to the ground.” Again, Dr. P., “after a variety of ingenious and elaborate arguments,” has presented “a new theory,” which is that the serum is separated at death and *not before*; therefore, “reasoning from effects,” the “Saviour must have been dead when the wound was made.” Now if this “indefatigable student of the bible,” as you term him, will



just turn to the 33d and 34th verses of the 19th chapter of St. John, he will there find sufficient evidence of the Saviour's death without the necessity of "reasoning from effects." The account is thus recorded :—"But when they (the soldiers) came to Jesus and saw that he was *dead already*, they break not his legs : But one of the soldiers with a spear pierced his side, and forthwith came thereout blood and water." I think, therefore, that "the common opinion among theologians" is the correct one ; that the water came either from the pericardial or pleural cavities ; that it was not the result of any disease, but deposited there during the *articulo mortis*.

H. N. MATTISON.

Providence, August 12, 1853.

*Medical Miscellany.*—Both cholera and yellow fever are fatally prevalent in Cuba.—Mrs. Tamar Sheeley, aged 64, wife of Jacob Sheeley, aged 90, residing at Neversink, it is said became the mother of a living child, week before last, and it is doing well. This case is one of importance to physiologists ; and also, in legal medicine, it may be of use by way of precedent in some future knotty question in regard to legitimacy.—Henry Bronson, M.D., and B. Silliman, Jr., M.D., have been appointed successors of Professors Silliman and Ives in the Medical Department of Yale College. Mr. Silliman is also to be instructor in Chemistry in the Academical Department. Prof. John A. Porter has been appointed Professor of Analytical and Agricultural Chemistry in the Philosophical Department.—Edward Emmons, of Ridgeville, Ohio, died of hydrophobia in 48 hours after the development of the disease—he was bitten by a dog last March.—A stone, bearing the name of Hahnemann, from the town of his birth, is to be placed in the Washington Monument, by a committee of the American Institute of Homœopathy.—Dr. Barron, formerly of Palmer, who has been for some time past digging for a mineral spring at Ballston, N. Y., by "spiritual direction," has been successful after digging some 18 feet ; most of which distance was through solid rock. The fact is cited as another proof of the genuineness of spiritualism.—Smallpox is raging at the Sandwich Islands in a more terrific manner than ever before known.—Yellow fever is sweeping all before it at the South and in the West Indies.

TO CORRESPONDENTS.—In addition to papers before acknowledged, we have received the following :—Use of the Tampon in Abortion ; Quackery by "Itinerant Doctors ;" Queries to the Essex North and Bristol District Medical Societies.

DIED.—At Roxbury, Mass., Dr. John Dwight, 78.—In New Orleans, of yellow fever, Dr. Nye, formerly of New York, and Dr. Taft, formerly of Boston.—At Philadelphia, Dr. John Petit, 48, distinguished for his active benevolence.—At Worcester, Mass., Calvin Newton, M.D., president of and professor in the Medical Institution in that city.—At Fort Ontario, Dr. Lawrence Sprague, a native of Boston.—At Westminster, Mass., Dr. Henry M. Lincoln.

*Deaths in Boston* for the week ending Saturday noon, Aug 13th, 1856. Males, 82—females, 54. Accidents, 3—inflammation of the bowels, 7—disease of the bowels, 2—inflammation of the brain, 4—disease of the brain, 4—burns and scalds, 1—consumption, 7—convulsions, 2—cholera infantum, 21—cholera morbus, 5—dysentery, 13—diarrhea, 2—dropsy, 3—dropsy in the head, 3—drowned, 3—infantile diseases, 9—puerperal, 1—erysipelas, 1—typhoid fever, 1—scarlet fever, 1—hooping cough, 2—disease of the heart, 4—hemorrhage, 1—intemperance, 3—inflammation of the lungs, 1—measles, 1—old age, 3—rheumatism, 1—pleurisy, 1—suicide, 2—inflammation of the stomach, 1—scrofula, 1—sunstroke, 4—disease of the spine, 1—teething, 9—thrush, 3—tumor, 1—unknown, 3—worms, 1.

Under 5 years, 30—between 5 and 20 years, 9—between 20 and 40 years, 24—between 40 and 60 years, 13—over 60 years, 10. Born in the United States, 101—Ireland, 29—British Provinces, 3—Germany, 2—Scotland, 1. The above include 14 deaths in the city institutions.

*Phlegmasia Dolens relieved by Cold Water.*—On the 2d day of April, 1852, I was called to attend Mrs. A. in her first confinement. The labor progressed rapidly, and she was soon delivered of a fine, healthy child, with no untoward symptoms except excessive flooding, which, after great prostration, was arrested by the ordinary remedies. She was doing well up to the 9th, when she complained of a pain, which she described as a "cramping pain," in the calf of the right leg; this continued to increase during the following 24 hours, until it became of the most excruciating character; then successively the thigh, groin and hip became affected, the pain becoming more severe as the disease advanced; at the same time the limb was hot and swollen; in short, I might say, that there were present all the symptoms of a veritable case of *Phlegmasia Dolens*, perhaps more properly termed Crural Phlebitis, commencing as it sometimes, but not frequently, does at the lower instead of the upper part of the limb. This case was treated in the ordinary way, with the exception that depletion was not resorted to, which was inadmissible, on account of the great debility occasioned by excessive flooding at the time of her accouchment. The remedies seemed merely to act as palliatives, without checking the progress of the disease; for on the 20th, the same symptoms began to make their appearance in the left leg that had been complained of in the right.

Being satisfied that if my patient was to suffer again what she had just passed through she must certainly succumb (for it had already become necessary to use stimulants pretty freely), I determined upon a different course of treatment. I ordered a tub of the coldest spring water, directing it should be constantly poured upon the left leg for half an hour, after which wet cloths were to be applied for the same length of time. These applications were made to the whole limb, for the thigh had now become affected.

The next day my patient informed me, that the limb to which the water had been applied felt much better, though it was still very painful, and I discovered, on examination, that the redness along the course of the vessels and swelling had somewhat subsided. The right leg was still painful. I directed the same application to both limbs to be repeated, at least twice during the day; which was again followed by very great relief. Indeed, it was only repeated for four successive days, when the inflammatory action had entirely subsided, and my patient was free from pain. It is unnecessary to state that her recovery was speedy from this date.

Without comment, I leave it with you and the profession to decide upon the propriety of the indiscriminate use of cold water in such cases, before the cessation of the lochial discharge.

In this case there were no bad effects; no suppression of the discharge; but what the consequence of its application at the onset of the disease might have been, I do not pretend to say. I also leave the case for the blind exultation of the Hydropathist, without going into an argument to prove that the use of water in this case is not empirical, but that it is scientific practice, founded upon the true pathology of the disease; which is essentially of an inflammatory character, whether this inflammation be seated in the absorbent or venous system.—*N. O. Med. & Surg. Jour.*

*New York Medical College.*—Dr. J. H. Whittaker has resigned the Chair of Anatomy, which is to be occupied by Dr. E. R. Peaslee, formerly Professor of Physiology and Pathology. Dr. Edward H. Parker, of Concord, N. H., succeeds Dr. Peaslee in his chair.